

P17380.A06

Application No. 09/214,001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hitoshi KUDO et al.

Serial No : 09/214,001

(National Phase of PCT/JP97/02265)

Group Art Unit : 1764

Examiner : Unknown

Filed : June 30, 1997 (as PCT /JP97/02265)

For : REFORMING APPARATUS FOR MAKING A CO-REDUCED REFORMED
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SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Further to the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 17, 1999 and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, filed April 23, 1999, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby direct the Examiner's attention to the following additional information cited in the Supplementary European Search Report issued in connection with European counterpart Application No. 97 92 8525. A copy of the Supplementary European Search Report is enclosed in order that the Examiner can see the relevance attributed to the information cited therein:

Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 1996, No. 08 (C-664), August 30, 1996

EP-A-0 600 621

EP-A-0 533 232

EP-A-0 435 642

The Supplementary European Search Report including its Annex indicates that U.S. Patent No. 5,658,681 and JP-A-8-106914 is a family member of the Patent Abstracts of Japan, that U.S.

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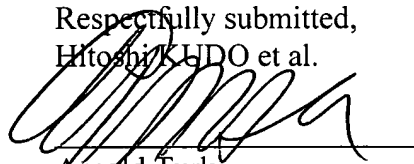
Patent No. 5,458,857 is a family member of EP-A-0 600 621, and that U.S. Patent No. 5,226,928 is a family member of EP-A-0 435 642. For the Examiner's convenience copies of these documents are also enclosed.

Copies of the above-noted documents are enclosed accompanied by a duly completed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is accordingly requested to consider each of the documents, and to make them of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate space on the Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The undersigned hereby certifies pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) that the information disclosed herein was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this disclosure statement.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this matter, the undersigned may be contacted at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi KUDO et al.



Arnold Turk
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January 10, 2000
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